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Possibility of War

1. Leaders of the WKP/b (All Russian Communist Party of Bolsheviks) state that:
 - (a) War is not imminent and is unlikely to break out before completion of the USSR's second Five Year Plan.
 - (b) The Anglo-Saxons, despite their use of the atom bomb and propaganda as "blackmail," will not start a war.
 - (c) If war does come it will be at a time chosen by the USSR.
 - (d) Time is working for the USSR. The US will achieve the reconstruction of Germany and Japan and will settle her internal problems, but in the meantime, Siberia will be developed as the richest arsenal in Eurasia and Communist influence in central and eastern Europe will be firmly established.
2. Communists in Poland claim that the USSR does not want war but is preparing for it because the Soviets believe the following trends indicate a possibility of eventual war:
 - (a) US expenditures for armaments during 1947 have, according to Nowe Drogi (New Roads), reached a total of US\$18 billion.
 - (b) US capitalists are pointing toward war because it opens markets and provides an easy road to prosperity. Those capitalists are aware of the growing unemployment and difficult social conditions which have brought the US to the verge of an economic crisis. Family living costs in the US have risen over 4,000% since 1913.
 - (c) US expansionist policies are demonstrated by her strengthening of anti-democratic elements in central Europe; her toleration of Fascist regimes in Greece, Turkey, Spain, Portugal, and France (de Gaulle); and by the Marshall Plan.

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- (d) The US is building and expanding her bases in Greenland.
- (e) The US has instituted a great anti-Communist drive to purge un-American elements from her army and Government.

Prospects for Opposing Forces in Next War

3. According to the Communist regime in Poland, the USSR makes the following objective estimate of Anglo-Saxon war potential:

(a) Assets:

- (1) The atomic bomb.
- (2) Reserves of raw materials.
- (3) Efficient industrial organization and highly developed industrial technique.
- (4) Gold reserves.
- (5) Inherent love of freedom.

(b) Weaknesses:

- (1) Growing economic friction between the US and Great Britain.
- (2) The struggles for independence occurring in many colonial possessions.
- (3) The Negro problem with its threat of internal danger to the US and of revolution in Africa.
- (4) The formation of a Slav bloc in Europe and the Soviet attempts to establish Slavonic solidarity within the US.
- (5) The activities of the powerful Communist organizations throughout the world.
- (6) The general desire for peace in the world and the specific antipathy for war among the people of the US.
- (7) The US' lack of a large standing army. The atomic bomb alone cannot determine the course of war. Large armies are necessary to occupy and consolidate conquered territory. In the event of war the USSR could liquidate all US footholds in Europe and occupy Asia before the arrival of Anglo-Saxon troops.

4. The USSR's estimate of its own war potential includes the following factors:

(a) Assets:

- (1) A powerful industry.
- (2) Tremendous reserves of raw materials and manpower.
- (3) The largest army in the world in an excellent state of training and equipment.
- (4) Communist parties throughout the world which are presently waging a purely ideological war as agents of the Comintern will become, on the outbreak of war, active instruments of sabotage, espionage, and propaganda.
- (5) All Anglo-Saxon weaknesses can be credited as Soviet assets.

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(b) Weaknesses:

- (1) Devastation suffered during World War II.
- (2) Less efficient industrial organization than the US, and lack of the atomic bomb.
- (3) The existence within the USSR of both overt and covert opposition elements.

Position of Possible Participants in War

5. Following is a summary of statements by leading Polish Communists regarding the internal and foreign position of possible participants in a future war:

- (a) The US. All statements emphasize US imperialism as demonstrated by her activities in Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt. The US, by inciting Egypt against Britain and increasing her own influence over Canada and Australia, is helping to weaken the British Empire. Chiang Kai-shek's opposition to US efforts to strengthen Japan's military potential can cause the US considerable trouble.
- (b) Great Britain. The USSR does not consider Great Britain a permanent factor of strength in the structure of the world. The vanishing British Empire, in a frantic effort to preserve its position of power, is trying to act as mediator between the US and the USSR. In the meantime, the US is systematically weaning away Canada, Australia, and several British possessions in Africa, while the USSR is prepared to take over the rest.
- (c) Germany. The USSR is endeavoring to absorb all of Germany into her sphere of influence. Absorption will be facilitated by the similarity between Communism and National Socialism which once before paved the way for Communism in Germany.
- (d) France. The main objective of the French Communists is to change France into a "people's democracy" and tie her foreign policy to the USSR's through their mutual fear of a militarily powerful Germany. The USSR realizes that the French people are opposed to both Communism and Fascism and must therefore be accorded special treatment if they are to accept the "new system." Capitalists, for example, must be given concessions not ordinarily permitted in Communistic countries. If de Gaulle attempts a coup d'etat with Anglo-Saxon aid, the Communists in France will start an immediate offensive and hope for Soviet assistance.
- (e) Greece. Greece is the current proving ground for US and USSR weapons of force and influence. Communists believe that the US is losing world prestige through her involvement in Greek internal problems and her inability to solve them in accordance with her own plans. The USSR foresees the following solution to the Greek question:
 - (1) A "democratic" government will be set up in the territory presently occupied by the Communists.
 - (2) The USSR will then propose to the US a compromise calling for a Government of National Unity in Greece.
 - (3) The US will accept the proposal.
 - (4) When foreign armies are withdrawn and Communist elements in the National Unity Government are sufficiently strong, "reactionary" elements will be purged from the government and the Communists will assume full power.

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- (f) Poland. Poland occupies a primary position in Soviet plans for "democratizing" Europe but must co-operate with the USSR in these plans in order to secure Soviet assistance. All underground organizations must be eradicated and the popular tendency toward Anglo-Saxon orientation must be corrected. In its statements, the PPK stresses the USSR's willingness to help Poland and cites the anti-Polish action of the Anglo-Saxons in questioning Poland's western borders and rebuilding Germany.
- (g) The USSR. Soviet politicians believe their diplomacy has been successful. They have achieved the formation of a Slav bloc as a barrier to German aggression and have created "people's democracies" in central and southeastern Europe which will serve as transitional media for future Communist states. They have also destroyed Europe's balance of power which has been a traditional basis of British foreign policy.

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